THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1868.

THE "WAR COMMITTEE'S" REPORT.

We yesterday gave a portion of the long-promised report of the Congressional Committee on the "Conduct of the War."

In prefacing these extracts we stated that so much of the Report as is already before us would, if inserted at large, fill nearly if not all the four pages of our paper. Three-fourths of it is occupied with the military services of Gen. McClellan, commencing with his appointment as the successor of Gen. Scott, and coming down to November last, when he was relieved of the command of the Army of the Potomac. The number of his forces, his movements, his delays, his repeated calls for reinforcements, his differences with the President and much of which our readers are already familiar, are turbed our counsels and frustrated our plans." passed in review more or less at large, and interspersed with unfavorable views of his operations in who were called before the committee.

it is a digest made by the Committee, according to record: their own views of its bearing, from the large mass of the testimony they have taken in the prosecution of their protracted investigations.

The committee state that they have taken the testimony of " nearly two hundred witnesses, almost entirely men in the military service of the Government, including about one hundred Generals," and that while they have not failed to take the testimony of witnesses in relation to military operations in other parts of the country, and also upon various subjects to which their attention has been specially directed by Congress and the War Departin his annual report that, under a previous call of the Senate, that will be communicated, and therefore I do not wish ment, the principal part of the testimony taken by them, and which we understand to be very voluminous, relates to the Army of the Potomac and those subjects more immediately connected with its ope-

On reading the report compiled by the committee from the great mass of testimony that has naturally accumulated under the examination of "two hundred witnesses, almost entirely men in the military service of the Government, including about one hundred Generals," the first thing that has one hundred Generals, the first thing that has "The President pro tempore. It is competent for struck us with surprise is the remarkable fact that the 8-nator from Ohio to modify his own resolution, and among them all, so far as appears from the digest made by the committee, there is nothing that does not bear more or less hardly against Gen. McClellan. It seems to us very extraordinary that two hundred men should be so unanimous in their opinions, if the digest of the committee be, as it should be, an exhaustive reduction of the whole evidence rather than a selection of so much as tends in a single line of direction.

The committee modestly state that, in expressing opinions on military operations in the field, they "do not undertake to form and express opinions of their own, but content themselves with setting forth those expressed in clear testimony by military men whose education and experience entitle them to speak confidently on those subjects pertaining to their profession." Since, then, the members of the committee have no opinions of their own to express on these subjects, we could wish that, in giving their compilation of the testimony, they had more frequently enabled us to perceive in whose words they were speaking, or by whose authority they were influenced in pronouncing certain judgments on the military events which form the subject of their review. So greatly have we felt this want, and so numerous are the lacung which, with the official papers elsewhere attainable by us, we have been able to detect in this exposition, that we prefer to suspend the publication of so much of the Report as relates to the campaign in the Virginia Peninsula until we can have the advantage of comparing the committee's " report" with the mass of the evidence from which it is reduced, provided we can ascertain that the testimony will soon be placed within our reach. If, however, we find that the testimony is to be long held in reserve, we may feel it necessary to give the verdict of the committee in advance of the publication of the facts on which it purports to be based; for, little as such a course comports with our views of propriety or justice, it may be rendered necessary by the priority which the committee have given to their "verdict" rather than to all the facts of

It is also a source of regret to us that the committee, in undertaking to give a history of the Peninsula Campaigo, should have been so destitute of the intelligence to be derived from official reports detailing the transactions of that campaign. They state that "the report of Gen. Barnard is the only report of the officers engaged in the campaign of the Peninsula which they have obtained." This is very surprising when it is known that several other reports have been published by the press from Generals Hooker, Heintzelman, and others, relating to interesting parts of that campaign; and when, moreover, the committee state that dred and fifty bales of cotton, and the United States as " for a long time they were in constant communication with the President and his Cabinet, and neglected no opportunity of at once laying before him the information acquired by them in the course of their investigations," we wonder that gentlemen so porting it were condemned, notwithstanding an all-ged pereager to impart useful information to the " President and his Cabinet" should not have been equally eager to derive similar information from others. Any well-informed journalist could have suant the reto, all commercial intercourse with the issue. directed their attention to other reports than the paper of Gen. Barnard, from which they report at such length; and, indeed, we could have directed them to still another letter of that officer, from which they might have borrowed some very instructive suggestions. We allude to his letter addressed to Mr. William Henry Hurlbert, the translator of the monograph of the Prince de Joinville on the Peninsular Campaign, and in which, among thority to license trade with the quasi-enemy country. Hence the permits granted at Helena under alleged miliother judicious reflections, General Barnard wroto tary authority, to buy and ship c tion from points outside

have experienced them can well appreciate the enormous

advantages which these circumstances confer upon the de-fence—the difficulties thrown upon the offensive.

"In the recent campaign against Richmond it may be said that we never saw the army to which we were oppose ed, nor could we judge with any approach to accuracy where it was and how it was di-posed. Hence the besita-tion in attacking an enemy whose numbers and disposi-

tions are unknown. "In place of the unity of purpose and iron will in execution which have been the advantage of the Confederate military perations, we have been permitted to have no angle will to rule—no entry of plan or purpose. Not only does this apply to the direction of military operation, but even to the ofject of the war—to the appointment of the G-ners! to command Political or sectional influences. have disturbed our coursels or frustrated our plans. army of Gen. McCled in was no sooner pushed into the field thin it was divided under five different commanders, each

independent of the other.

"If we have seen no indication as yet of that commanding ability and force of will which would, if left untramed." ne led, create uni y of action and give room for skill in execution, (qualities certainly possessed by he head of the rebel government,) we should at least remember Napo-leon's aphorism, that one had Genera is better than two ones independent of each other and acting in the

We are sorry that the committee did not elicit from Gen. Barnard the views he thus publicly announced in another quarter, for, as they seen to have a great resp ct for his critical judgment on the blunders of the campaign, he might have General in-Chief, his alleged failure to provide pro helped them to some useful inferences as to "the per protection for the national capital, &c , with political or sectional influences which have dis-

And this leads us to express, in conclusion, our regret that the country is still deprived of the in. the field, based upon the opinions of other officers telligence for which the Senate applied at the very opening of the late session of the last Congress We suppose it is understood by every intelligent In the official report of the proceedings of the reader, in advance of the perusal of the report, that Senate on last December 5th we find the following

"Mr. SHERMAN. I move to take up for consideration

the resolution I . flered yesterday.

"The motion was sgreed to; and the Senate proceeded to consider the following resolution:

"Resolved. That the Secretary of War be instructed to "Resolved. That the Secretary of War be instructed to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public service, all c respondence telegrams, letters, and reports concerning the military operations of the Army of the Potomac since its withdrawal from Harrison's Landing, and all correspondence, letters, telegrams, and reports relating to the sarrender of Harper's Ferry, and the testim my taken before the committee of investigation upon such surrender.

"Mr. SUMNER. I suggest to the Senator from Ohio wheth r it would not be expedient to make the call a little of the Pot mae from the time it lef. Washington.

"Mr. SHERMAN. The Secretary of War has informed us

duplicate the information.
"Mr. SUMNER. If that is the case I shall not press my

uggestion.
"Mr. GRIMES. I beg to inquire of the Senator from Does he mean the court of inquiry that sat by order of the Secretary of War to investigate the transactions growing out of the surrender of Harper's Ferry? It so, it is not properly designated. It was not a 'committee of investi-gation,' but a 'court of inquiry,' which is a technical

"Mr SHERMAN. If the Sena or thinks the description is not correct, I sak to have the proper words—court of inquiry'—inserted. I thought it was a mere committee. "Mr. GRIMES. No. str.

"The resolution, as modified, was adopted."

And, again, under the date of last December 8th we find a record of the following proceeding had in the Senate: "Mr. SUMNER. I offer a resolution which is in the no

ture of an amendment to one that was passed by the Senate on Friday last : " Resolved, That the call upon the Secretary of War for all correspondence, telegrame, and reports concerning the mili-tary operations of the army of the Pot mac, be extended so as to embrace all such papers from the first movement of

The resolution was considered by unanimous consent

And yet, notwithstanding this call on the part of the Senste, and notwithstanding the announcement made by the Secretary of War in his last re- for the President manifest under this head a tenween the Department and the respective composition as the Senate asked has ever been allowed its intelligence respecting the official communica. tions which have attended the operations of our army in the best way it can, either through such unauthenticated documents as have found publicity in the newspaper reports of courts-martial, or in ex-parte records as that now before us prepared by says : the Committee on the "Conduct of the War."

Why there should be so much retigence practised in regard to the publication of pipers already repared for transmission to Congress, but never transmitted, passes our power of comprehension on any theory save such as our respect for the President would forbid us to form, if we did not chari tably suppose that he has forgotten to give the sanction" for which Mr. Stanton, at the date of indition his last report, announced himself to be tone of the President (except when his words para through waiting. How much longer shall the Secretary, and the country with him, be called to wait for the President's sanction to the official publication of documents "prepared" for publication in answer to a call of the Senate? What useful or honest purpose is subserved by their longer suppression? The country wants to read these papers in an official shape and in their entirety, without suppressions and without notes or comments to make them mean what somebody or anybody may desire to make them mean.

IMPORTANT LEGAL DECISION.

Judge TREAT, of the United States Circuit Court for the district of Missouri, on Saturday last gave an import ant decision in the cases of the United States zs. four hunthe et amboat Planet, for going from Helena to Delta and Friar's Point, in November last, and taking supplies to vice." And, as if this was not enough, the comp anters residing in that region, and bringing back the coton condemned in this case. By the conclusions reached by the court, the property transported and the vessel transmit from the military authorities at Helena. The St. Louis Republican says:

"In rendering his decision Judge Treat held that under the acts of Congress, and the President's proclamation purrectionary States, or beyond the military lines of the United States forces, is or h bited without a locuse therefor by the President, through the Secretary of the Freezry. Whilst military officers have full authority to present even persons with licenses from passing through or be; oud their lines, when military operations demand such action, no military commander has any lawful authority to grant a license to any one to poss beyond his lines for commercial enter prises. If the expedition beyond the lines is merely for military purposes, it is subject solely to military control; but it must not be for mixed military and commercial ob-jects. Under the law no military commander has any auof the lines of the United States forces, or to ship suppl es "It is probable that armies of such magnitude were never before (in modern times) opposed to each other in a country so wooded and of such impassable roads as that in which has been our theatre of war, and none but those who THE ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT.

Such portions of the Report made by the Com mittee on the Conduct of the War as we have already laid before our readers must have left a painful impression on their minds in at least one of its aspeats. We a'lude to the imputations it easts, none the less significant because not presented in the shape of formal accusations and bitter impeachments, on the capacity of the President, as displayed by his management of the war. These blows are not always aimed at him over the heads of the men whom he is represented to have retained in military command long after their incompe tency had been demonstrated to certain others. (especially to the members of the martial committee,) but are sometimes direct in their delivery and application.

It was doubtless foreseen by the committee that they could not arraign the military character and conduct of Gen. McClellan, from the beginn ug of the autumn of 1861 down to the period of his re moval in November, 1862, without at the same time arraigning the President, who so persistently stood b tween them and the object of their assaults. And that there might be no doubt as to the bear ing of their report in this regard, they prefuce it by laying the ultimate responsibility for the failure "to put down the rebellion" on the shoulders of the Executive, "whose duty it was rightfully to apply the means" so lavishly furnished by Congress and the people. To this effect they argue as follows: "The Administration called by the people to the head

of the Government, in this the most critical period of the nation's history was more promptly and fully supported than that of any other Government of which history has preserved any record. The call of the President for money and men had been more than complied with; no legislation which he had deemed necessary had been denied by Congress; and the people had most nobly and generously supported and sustained what their representatives has promised in their name. The same Congress, tresh from their co stituents, had again met, and there could be no d ubt that as they had before acted so would they continue to set. It cl sed, its prompt and thorough action, I thing the Executive with the fullest power, placing at his disposal all the resources of men and money which this nation possessed, to prove that your committee judged rightly that Congress needed no prompting from them to do its entire duty. No upon those whose duty it was to provide the means neces sary to put down the rebelien. but upon those whose duty i was to rightfully apply those means, and the age is THEY
EMPLOYED for that purpose, rests the blame. If any,
that the hopes of the nation have not been realized, and its
expectations have been so long disappointed."

It was unnecessary to be any more explicit than this, and the public press has not been slow to apprehend the drift of the report. For instance, that ardent Administration paper, the New York Evening Post, points the bearing of the committee's disclosures in the following moral which it deduces

"This report will be read by millions, but if there is one by whom we could hope that it would be read more at-tentively than any body else it is Abraham Lincoln F. r. we cannot disguise from our elves that, although the disasters and failures of the Army of the Potomac were immediately owing to General McClellan while he he d the ultimate responsibility for them rest. upon the President. It is no answer to say that, having neither military education nor military experience, he could not be expected to know any thing of military matters. He is expected—and the country must hold him to the fulfit ment of the expectation—to know the difference between a good general and an incompetent one. He is expected to know en ugh of men to select, for the diff rent agencies through which the powers of G veri mentex it the meelves. those who cen best serve their country. He is expected to employ the ablest men to lead our armies—the fittest men to command our fleets—the men who have gone most deeply into the science of military campaig ing, to counsel him in the conduct of the war. This is his daily, and the country will claim its strict performance. He has no right to keep an officer in command a moment of er his unfitness

Journals not professing any political friendship port, when he said that "the communications be- derness for his reputation, that quite exceeds the nanders were prepared under a resolution of the the exposures of this manifesto, some of them we Senate at the last session, and will be transmitted presume because they really have not sagacity Congress whenever you [the President] shall be enough to perceive the recoil of the blows on the head leased to give your sanction," no such official ex- of the President, and some, doubtless, because they hold the President in ill-disguised contempt while o see the light, and the country is left to eke out professing to be his supporters. Among the journals which concur with the Evening Post in its view of the tendency of these disclosures, but are disposed to speak with kind consideration of the part assigned in them to the President, we may cite the Journal of Commerce, a Democratic paper. such truncated and clandestine publications as that In its comments on the Committee's Report, so made in the case of hix John Porter, or in such far as that report bears against the President, it

"What the committee think and say about Gen. Mc Civilian is of little importance, since they are by no means j dges of military matters. But the exposure of the general conduct of the war which they did n t intend to make; but which is made by their report, he atts value We are impressed with the great t with, which shines out of their whole story, that the relations between the P esident and Gen. McClellan were of the mat kind and cordial char desirous of supporting McClellan in 11 military opera-tions, but that the interference of just such men as this committee prevented the honest, carpest desires of the President, and destroyed the hope of the country in the armies under McClellan. The kindly and most sincere the hands of other persons) is always visible, and the petrioric and noble utterances of McClellan always respond fully and unmistakably. The political partisans who came between the President and McClellan have been the curse of the country. They have ruined a magnificent army and prolonged the war indefinitely."

But there is a part of this report, embraced in the portions already laid before our readers, which is in the nature of a direct accusation against the President, who, in exercising his functions as constitutional Commander-in-Chief, is charged with havof the Potomac while it was under the command of Gen. Burnside, and to have done this at the suggestion of men who, in making their communications to him, though with his approbation, were so much out of the line of their duty that they deserved, in the estimation of Gen. Halleck and Gen. Burnside, to be "at once dismissed the serin the eyes of the people at this crisis, when it is should not be lightly esteemed. We shall proceed to quote in this analysis the precise words of the designated. committee, in making their representations against Mr. Lincoln for his conduct in arresting the expedition meditated by Gen. Burnside after the dis-Ster at Fredericksburg.

Burnside to prepare three days' cooked rations; to such exposures tending to impeach, on presumptive have their wagons filled with ten days' small ra- grounds, the pruione; of one or another of the tions, if possible; to have from ten to twelve days' high personages charged more or less with the for their teams and their arillery and cavalry Gen. McClellan, whether it is just or not, can horses, and the requisite amount of ammuni ion- reflect only on him or on those who seek his dehours' notice. Shortly after that order was issued haps be called to do service again under this Ad-Gen. John Newton and Gen. John Cochrane came ministration. But the President, the General-inthey informed him and Geo. William F. Smith far as they have any tendency at all, to draw their that when they came to Washington they should character for capacity or prudence into popular take the opportunity to represent to some one in authority here the dispirited condition of the army, minds will concur with the New York Journal of and the danger there was in attempting any morement against the enemy at that time. Of the par- fortunate exhibition : ticular movement planned by Gen. Burnside they had no knowledge. While in the city they sought and obtained an interview with the President, and the purport and results of that interview are described by the committee as follows:

"Gen Newton opened the subject to the President At fi at the President, as Gen. Newton . xpresses it, 'very attrally conceived that they had come there for the purose of injuring Gen. Burnside, and suggesting some oth person to fill his place ' Gen. N. wton states that, whilne firmly b-lieved that the principal cause of the dispirited e addition of the army was the want of confidence in the mil ary capacity of Gen Burneide, he deemed it improper to say so to the President 'right square out,' and therefore endeavored to convey the same me made indirectly. When asked if I econsidered it any less improper to do such a thing indirectly than it was to do it directly, he qualified his previous assertion by saying that his object was to in form the President of what he considered to be the condition of the army, in the hope that the President would make inquiry and learn the true cause for himself. Upon per ceiving this impression upon the mind of the President, Gens Newton and Cochrane state that they hastened to assure the President that he was entirely mistaken, and so far succeeded that at the close of the interview the President said to them he was gld they had called upon him, and that he hoped that good would result from the interview. per to say so to the President 'right square out,' and

hoped that good would result from the irtered w. " To return to Gen. Burnside. The cavalry expedition had start d; the brigsde of intantry detailed to t had crossed the Reppahannock at Richard's Ford, and re urned by way of Ellis's Ford, I aving the way clear for the cavalry to cross at Kalle's Ford. the cavalry to cross at Kelly's Ford. The day they had arranged to make the crossing General Burnside received from the President the following telegram: 'There good nent without letting me know of it

time, what reason the Pr. sident could have for serding him such a telegram. None of the officers of his command. except one or two of his staff who had remained in camp, had been told any thing of his plan beyond the simple fact that a movement was to be made. He could only suppose that the despa cherelated in some way to important military movements in other parts of the country, in which it

was recessary to have co-peration.
"Upon the receipt of thit telegram steps were imme distely taken to talt the cavary expedition where it then was (at Kelly's Ford) until further orders. A partion of it was shortly afterwards sent off to intercept Stuart, who had just made a raid to Dumf. ies and the neighborhood of Fairfax Cour i-bouse, which it fuled to do.

Gen Buraside came to Wa hington to ascertain from by the President that some General officers from the army the Potomne, whose names he declined to give, had call d disprited and demoral zed that any attempt to make a movement at that time must result in disaster; that no

avor of py movement at that time.
"Gen. Burnside informed the President that none of his officers and been into med what he plan was, and then pr ceeded to explain it in detail to the Pres dent. He urged non the President to grant him permission to carry it u', but the President declined to da so at tha time Gen Hall ck and Secretary Senten were sent for, and then learned, for the first time, of the President's action in stop ping the movement; although Gen Hatte k was previously ware that a novement was comtemplated by Gen Burn-ide. Gen. Halleck, with Gen. Burnaide, held that the officers who had made those representations to the President should be at once dismissed the service.

hen he returned to his comp he learned that ma yof the te a is of the general m vement a d the details of the cavashington, thereby rendering that plan impracticable

President that "he said to them he was glad they dent or the country, may it not be because of the appeared than exacerbated by his enemies, if they had called upon him, and that he hoped good very limited field within which he is permitted to had been as discreet as they are embittered. All would result from the interview." The actual re- display his abilities? sult of the interview was an order of the President suspending the operations of Gen. Burnside, because, as he said, "he had good reason" for demanding such a suspension, alluding to the representations confidentially made by Gens. Cochrane and Newton, and which, whatever may have been the true under the most trying circumstances in the informality of their e mmunication, were accepted by the President as furnishing "good reasons" for holding Gen. Burnside in check. That is, the President adopted their reasons as his own, and thus threw over the heads of the officers making triotic speech made by Mr. Johnson on the occa- is perpetually assuited, and if, at this stage of his these statements the protecting shield of the Commander-in-Chief. To have afterwards punished them for making communications on which he had acted would have been, of course, to stultify himseen in Mr. Johnson's possession, and at his reself and wrong the officers with whom he had made quest a copy was yielded for publication. It is self and wrong the officers with whom he had made himself partic ps criminis if any crime had been subjoined: committed.

But the matter did not end here. The committee report that Gen. Burnside repaired to Washington and proceeded to explain to the President made by the officers whose names he declined to its duties in nearly every critical juncture that is President's action in stopping the movement. Gen. to day. In fact, if it had been authoritatively proclaime or Mr. Secretary Stanton had allowed "the de- ington except the President, Secretary Stanton, tails" of a meditated expedition, planned by and Gen. Halleck, and then returns to his army, federacy. For the Confederacy would have answered al ington, thereby rendering that plan impracti his plan was rendered impracticable. It is not dicable." These are very damaging exposures. The rectly charged that the President, Gen. Halleck, or President and his two principal military advis- officers "who had remained in camp all the time." ers, or out of regard for the official position he fills | the committee leave the necessary inference to be drawn that the "rebel sympathizers" in this city had so important that the character of the President obtained their news directly or indirectly through one or other or all of the high functionaries above We could have wished that these sorrowful in-

nuendoes might have been avoided, and that the facts on which they are based might have been suppressed, especially when they are capable of a con-

It appears that on the 26th of December last an struction bovershie to the good intentions of all the order was used describe entire command of Gen. parts t concer ed. For what good can come from supply of beef cattle with them; to take forage conduct of the war? What is said to damage a fact, to be in a condition to move at twelve gradation. He is in retirement, and will not perap to Washington on leave of absence. Previous Chief, and the Secretary of War should not be to obtaining leave of absence from Gen. Franklin, heedlessly coupled with associations that tend, so character for espacity or prudence into popular suspicion and disrepute. We are sure that all fair minds will concur with the New York Journal of Commerce in the following reflections on this unfortunate exhibition:

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 2, 1863.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

GENTLEMEN: In reading your valuable paper from time to time—to which I regularly subscribe—I notice a constant endeavor on your part to bring out. McClellan into favorable remembrance, much more so than any one else among the relieved officers of the same grade in the army.

"What shall be said of the bold intimation by this committee against the President, Secretary of War, and Gen. Halleck—the intimation that they betrayed Burnside's secrets to the enemy? It is the most gross attack ever mad- by a committee of Congress on Cabinet or President. Doubtless it was intended to be directed specially at the S creary of War and Gen. Halleck, but this committee do not besitate to publish the President's name as one of three persons intrusted with those secrets, on whom they suspect the responsibility of their betrayal rests. It is unnecessary to say that so gross a charge, uosus ained by any proof, when there must have been scores of methods in which the secrets might have leaked out, is disgrac-ful to the character of the committee and subjets them to public indignation. In all their attacks upon General McClellan they only charge him with too much caution, to much care of the lives of his men. But in dealing with the higher authorities at Washington they make a more serious charge, and they will be held to strict account hereafter for it. The whole story about Gen. John Cochrane and the President is one which should never have seen the light; or, if published, should have been accompanied with fuller statements than these insinuations of the committee."

If we could wish that the President might have been spared the humiliations of this exposure, and that the insinuation of having divulged important military secrets might not have been cast either upon him or his two distinguished subordinates, it is none the less proper, now that the esclandre has occurred, that the moral which it teaches should be distinctly drawn.

Accordingly, we think it will be admitted by all that the President should not appoint any General "Gen. Burnside tat d that he could not imagine, at the to the command of an army, or retain any General in such command, who has so forfeited the confidence of his Government that his movements can know him simply by his public words and acts. be arrested at the unofficial and clandestine sug- Having no personal prejudices against him and no gestion of two of his subordinate officers. This is not only a matter of decorum but a plain and selves "capable" of "judging" him and his pubelementary principle of military administration.

be called a system where system there would seem to be none. For as before we have had the specupon him and represented that Gen. Burnside contemplated soon making a movement, and that the army was tacle of a General-in-Chief left by the President in total ignorance as to the plans of Gen. McCiellan, punished them for giving him counsel which he human testimony. had judged to be more reliable than that of all his After he had been relieved from military comadvice of Generals Contrane and Newton without

LETTER OF THE LATE JUDGE PETIGRU.

We have the pleasure to give to our readers worst of times. The letter was addressed to the Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON, of Maryland, who had sion. The recent publication in our paper of the letter of a kindred spirit, the late distinguished William C. Preston, of South Carolina, reminded a friend of the letter of Mr. P., which he had

CHARLESTON, APRIL 16, 1861 went into operation only a few weeks before I saw the else among the relieved officers"-must be a recluse light; and I have ever devoutly believed that Union is our who reads only the pages of the National Intelligreatest interest. Unfo tunately for me, my countrymen gencer. If others were content to leave General the details of the plan. The President, still under have in the course of the last fifty years, taken up the ing frustrated an important movement of the Army | the influence of the representations confidentially idea that it was a mistake, and that cotton is our greatest interest. The universality of the cotton doctrine, by which we should have little occasion to make "rememgive, refused his assent to Gen. Burnside's project. And it is while matters are at this stage that day, manifestations of enthusiasm in which I have not the essaying the "favorable" mention which our sense Gen. Halleck (who nominally holds the office of Gen- sightest participation. You may be sure, then, of my eral in-Chief while the President is found to perform ready and hearty concurrence in your able and lucid argument against the right of secession; for the Union would brought to light) learns for the first time of the ble ground of the popular opinion of expediency from day be but a precarious possession if it stool upon the muta- way in which the "favorable remembrance" of Gen. mittee proceed to disclose facts which create a sus- Burnside remains in Washington two days, con- at the time of its adoption that it was only binding as long picion that either the President, or Gen. Halleck. fides the details of his plans to nobody in Wash. as it received the voluntary adhesion of the several States, it never would have been adopted at all ; for people would have justly said that it was no improvement on the Con-Gen. Burnside, to so far transpire that "they only to find that these details had "become known its purposes if it could have been sure of the voluntary judge from the impatience that attended the movebecame known to the rebel sympathizers in Wash- to rebel sympathizers" in this city, and that thereby adherence of the several States to the duties that were submitted to their free arbitrament.

blunt terms in which they are made by the committee and published to the world imply no reserve but as it is stated that nobody in Gen. Burnside's within their several spheres. But our secessionists prething in attempting to divide the civil power between the divide the civil power between the but as it is stated that nobody in Gen. Burnside's within their several spheres. But our secessionists preever they could find him," and when the laster reon their part, either out of personal respect for the army knew what they were except one or two staff tend that they did not mean it. You have shown to de-

> well envy you for having such an audience to appeal to. What is to be the end of all this seems to me inscrute ble. But even if the Gulf States and South Carolina do fiske off forever, I will never cease to witness with joy whatever increases the presperity and honor of the United Yours, truly,

J. L. PETIGRU. The Hon. REVERDY JOHNSON, Baltimore.

A FEW USEFUL SUGGESTIONS

The writer of the subjoin of letter, b ing aware that we are not in the habit of noticing anonymous communications, meant doubtless nothing more than to give us a private and friendly hint on a point as to which, from our want of "means or espability of judging," we are, he conceives, in some danger of being led astray. But as his letter, notwithstanding the irregularity under which it reaches us, affords us a good opportunity for saying a few timely words in response to his friendly suggestion, we have determined to give it insertion in our columns. Our anonymous correspondent writes as follows:

smong the relieved omeers of the same grade in the army. If you can show, by any reliable facts, good ground for such partiality, it is well. I am acquired with this gentleman and his family, and therefore know something of the capable and incapable parts of the members of the family, and know also, whilst having the best personal feeling towards them es individuals, that the General is now much overrated by many people, chiefly by those who have no means or capab lity of judging, at least of the difference between the genuine and the reverse. I may also add that he has been fully confided in and honored for all that he has done, both in organizing and leading the army under his command; and, I am any y to say, as one having every confidence in the great civil power of the having every confidence in the great civil power of the land and its agent, (the Government at Washington) that the subordinate and military aim, under the lead of Mc-Clellan, has resulted in much delay and loss of valuable lives, and therefore much harm to the just cause of the country. In conclusion, permit me to add that those designing and insidious men who are now plotting to introduce the name of McClellan to the public as a marryr to the cause (to serve their own ambitious purposes) will find themselves anticipated.

Yours, SUBSCRIBER. With the members of Gen. McClellan's family

we do not conceive that we have any thing to do. The advantage possessed by our anonymous correspondent in knowing something of "the capable and incapable parts of the members of this family" may be such as to justify him in the conviction that the General is "now much overrated by many people." Under this head we have nothing to say, for we have never seen any members of Gen. McClellen's family, as indeed we have never seen the General himself, or had any correspondence with him, direct or indirect. It has been our disadvantage (or our advantage) to prepossessions in his favor, we have supposed ourlie conduct without any danger of being pledged, In the second place, this disclosure serves to set like some, to find him always and infallibly right, once more in a clear light the undefined nature of the or, like others, always and inevitably wrong. position held by General Halleck under the existing | While he was honored with the confidence of the military system of the Administration, if that can Administration and retained by the President in high military command we gave him the support to which we believed him entitled as a faithful and skilful soldier of the Republic, who, if he did not deserve all that was claimed for him by some of so now we have the spectacle of a General-in-Chief his admirers, had at least not deserved the systewho, though apprized that Gen. Burnside medi- matic detraction with which he was pursued by a tated a movement, was not apprized by the Presi- class of politicians always more conspicuous for dent that the mov. ment had been suspended at his their zeal that their discretion. We supposed, own instance. And so little were Gen. Halleck doubtless in our ignorance, that the confidence and the Secretary of War enlightened as to the true and affection won by Gen. McClellan from the state of the facts that they urged the President to great majority of his companions in arms, who dismiss the two officers on whose information he knew him in the camp and on the field of battle, had acted, as though the President, after he had were as likely to be good evidence of his military Gen Barnside remained here at that time for two made their opinions his own, could have honorably capacity as could be obtained in any other way by

alry expedition had become known to the rebel sympathizers other advisers put together. For he acted on the mand we had hoped that his detractors would t least give some respite to their assaults. Power stated that he had told no one in Washington except the thinking it necessary to take either Gen. Burnside less to weaken the confidence of either the army or President, Secretary St. nion, and Gen. Halleck; and in his camp none knew of it except one or two of his staff or Gen. Halleck or the Secretary of War into his the great mass of the people in both the patriotism officers, who had remained in camp all the time He pro-feesed homself unable to tell how his plans had become than we do how much the opinions of Gen. Halleck saults were henceforth purely gratuitous, for we Let us recapi ulate the facts set forth in this are worth in deciding a military question, but it suppose they were not needed, however much so parrative: Two officers, in performing a service for seems to us that while the latter holds the post of intended, to prevent the Administration from rewhich they deserved, in the judgment of Gen. Burn- General-in-Chief he should at least be treated with storing Gen. McClellan to active service. They side and Gen. Halleck, to be at once dismissed from the respect due to his office. If thus far he has served only to keep alive that irritation and debate the army, succeed in so far winning the ear of the failed to fulfil the expectations of either the Presi- which, after his removal, should have been rather attacks made upon bim under such circumstances can only enure to the advantage of his personal popularity, unless the grounds of that popularity can be undermined more effectually than was ever below a letter written by the late venerable Judge done by vituperation or by ex parte allegations, un-PETIGRU, of Charleston, a man who dared to be der whatever color they may be concocted and circulated.

We shall cease to make Gen. McClellan a theme for remark just so soon as his enemies are willing sent to the Judge a copy of the proceedings of a for remark just so soon as his enemies are willing great Union meeting which had just been held in to leave him undisturbed in the retirement to which. Baltimore, and embracing the eloquent and pa- he has been remitted by the President. But if he military career, we are called to publish long and elaborate documents in review of his military operations, we shall necessarily continue to treat him posing himself to perceive a "constant endeavor on our part to bring Gen. McClellan into favorable My DEAR SIR : I came in with the Constitution which remembrance-made much more so than any one McClellan in the seclusion he adorns by his silence. am sorrounded, had no sort of influence over my way of brance" of him; and if he were never assailed by of justice sometimes imposes on us as a duty.

And we would suggest that there is still another McClellan may be for a time postponed, if not permanently overlaid in the popular mind. It is in preoccupying the popular mind with brilliant victories won by Gen. Hooker on the banks of the Rappahannock, and by Gen. Grant in the trenches before Vicksburg. These achievements, if we were to ments of Gen. McClellan, have been already sufubmitted to their free arbitrament.

There is no doubt the men of 17:57 Jid undertake a new that the first named officer, on acceding to the comthing in attempting to divide the civil power between the mand of the Army of the Potomac, proposed that ceived the applause of the Secretary of War for monstration that this pretence of the secessionists is knowing no other strategy than that summed up groundless.

I hope there is sufficient good sense in the Maryland people to discern the right and to follow it, and I might falls and Richmond is captured (with the destruction of the insurgent armies) the friends of Gen. McClellan, provided they are as patrotic as we take them to be, if they are worthy of him, will have their mouths too full of exultations and their hearts too fall of gratitude to disturb the most bitter and unreleating of his opponents by making un-timely "remembrance" either of his successes or of his misfortunes.